

Division of Emergency Medical Services



2004 Annual Report to the King County Council

September 2004

Preface

I am pleased to present the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division 2004 Annual Report to the King County Council.

Although we are in the third year of the current EMS levy, this report represents the sixth EMS Annual Report to the King County Council. The Council originally requested the document to enable the EMS Division to systematically update the Council on the status of a number of operational, program, financial, and planning aspects of the regional EMS system. Although King County Ordinance (#12849) initially defined the content of this report, the EMS Annual Report has grown considerably beyond those requirements.

The EMS Annual Report now represents an excellent regional summary of major EMS programs and services, progress on EMS strategic initiatives, and the status of the EMS Financial Plan. The report has provided the opportunity to relay this progress to the entire region. The success that has been documented over the past six years in these Annual Reports is due to the regional cooperative work of fire department and paramedic providers, medical directors, fire chiefs, the EMS Division program and administrative staff, and the EMS Advisory Committee. This document will represent a key element in the planning that goes into the next EMS Levy and will demonstrate to elected officials a clear record of the progress and success in the regional approach to providing EMS care.

I see several major themes in this year's report. First, it clearly documents a strong regional effort by all the partners in the EMS system. This report is not the work of one division, but reflects the cooperative efforts of providers, physicians, and local communities. Second, this region has achieved substantial success in carrying out the identified strategic initiatives, and implementing new ones to continue the strong efforts made heretofore. These continuing efforts meet the challenges presented by elected officials in 2002 when the EMS Strategic Plan was implemented. Third, the linkages between EMS data and population-based data continue into some intriguing areas. I would recommend to you the Public Health Highlight on 'EMS and Teen Pregnancy' (page 52).

The regional EMS system is complex and multi-faceted, funded by a regional EMS levy that will be up for renewal in 2007, requiring the ongoing cooperation of communities across the county. Planning for the next levy is already in its initial stages, and a few main issues are beginning to emerge. This year's Annual Report begins to outline some of those items.

The citizens of King County receive excellent EMS service from the fire departments, paramedic providers, and staff who provide essential support services and programs. This year's Annual Report conveys the excellence of that service and the commitment of the people who deliver it. The EMS Division 2004 Annual Report is available online through the Public Health - Seattle & King County website located at the following address: (www.metrokc.gov/health/ems)

Dr. Alonzo L. Plough, Director and Health Officer
Public Health - Seattle & King County

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